

Appln No. 10/521,114
Amdt date October 25, 2006
Reply to Office action of July 24, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Pending Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 4-37 are pending, with claim1 being amended to include the limitation of deleted claim 3, and with claims 4, 9, 12, 15, 24-26, 28, 32 and 34 being amended to attend to minor grammatical or antecedent basis issues. No new matter is added to the claims that was not supported by the specification as originally filed.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph:

The Examiner first rejects claims 24-25 and 32-35 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 24 and 32 have been amended to address and overcome the noted lack of antecedent basis. With regard to the rejection of claim 25, Applicant respectfully did not find any lack of antecedent basis problem with the claim. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 24-25 and 32-35 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is traversed.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Turning to more substantive matters, the Examiner next rejects claims 1-37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,368,916 to Blasin. Applicant has carefully studied the Blasin reference, and respectfully submits that unlike amended claim 1, it teaches a lever arrangement wherein lever 18 is not fixed to a floor unit but is attached to a seat base 2. Thus, in the Blasin design, when seat base 2 is adjusted along a longitudinal direction of the seat, a movement of the backrest is triggered. In contrast, amended claim 1 recites that "the lever arrangement is formed by two spaced apart articulated levers which are attached on one side to an element displaceable together with the backrest and on the other side to a floor unit." When the seat base of Applicant's recited seat arrangement is longitudinally moved, this does not

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trigger movement of the backrest. Accordingly, this ground of rejection is traversed, and reversal is requested.

The Examiner also rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by E.P. Patent Application No. 0205409 to Dal Monte. Applicant has reviewed Dal Monte, and respectfully submits that in contrast to amended claim 1, in Dal Monte the ends of levers 5 and 6 are attached to the floor P and the seat base 12, but not to “an element displaceable together with the backrest.” Accordingly, this ground of rejection is traversed.

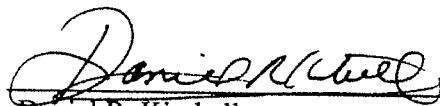
The Examiner next rejects claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Japan Patent No. 06227299 to Mizobuchi. Applicant has reviewed the Mizobuchi reference and notes that it describes a lever arrangement wherein the individual levers are attached to the seat base on one end and to the backrest on the other one, but not to “an element displaceable together with the backrest.” Accordingly, Mizobuchi fails to anticipate claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 and reversal is requested.

Lastly, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Great Britain Patent No. 2095984 to Talbot Motors. Applicant has reviewed the Talbot Motors reference and notes that it describes a completely different lever arrangement wherein a single link lever 13 with a bend per side of the seat back is used to adjust the longitudinal displacement of the seatback of an automotive seat relative to a seat base. The single bent link lever 13 of Talbot Motors is attached at one end to a bracket on the floor and at its other end directly to the bottom of the seat back, not through an “element displaceable together with the backrest”. Accordingly, the Talbot Motors reference fails to anticipate claims 1, 2, and 8 and reversal is requested.

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If the Examiner has any questions, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
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